

NEWS RELEASE

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Two Danville Men Charged with Counterfeit Check Scheme

Urbana, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury in Springfield has returned an indictment charging two Danville, Illinois men with defrauding a Danville bank. Cornelius Wilson, age 31, of 1506 Edgewood Street, and Nathaniel E. Taylor, 29, of 204 E. 11th Street, both of Danville, are each charged with three counts of bank fraud.

The indictment alleges that in January and February 2006, Wilson and Taylor obtained counterfeit checks from Los Angeles, California, purportedly drawn on the accounts of legitimate entities. Wilson and others allegedly made the counterfeit checks payable to persons, including Taylor, who had been recruited to cash them. Wilson and Taylor allegedly drove individuals to various branches of First Midwest Bank in Danville and other businesses, to cash the checks. The fraudulent proceeds were then allegedly distributed among the participants in the scheme, including Wilson and Taylor. The indictment alleges the counterfeit check scheme resulted in a loss of more than \$30,000.

If convicted, each count of bank fraud carries a possible maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1,000,000.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the Danville Police Department and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene L. Miller.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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